

Reflections on God's Purposes in Sufferings

fr. Paul's & Andrew's Imprisonment - Phil. 1:12-26

A. Paul's Reflection on his Imprisonment; v.12-18

1. He thought on the *positive* effects, i.e., on the things for which to be thankful
2. Christ's purpose of Advancing the Gospel was of being furthered:
 - The imperial guard was being gospelized as well as others
 - The name of Jesus Christ and His Saving Work was being gloriously spread!
 - Others believers were embolden in their testimony and preaching for Christ

B. Reflections on Andrew Brunson's imprisonment. *From his experience we learn:*

- The Power of God's Spirit to use God's Word to bring inner PEACE - *Matt 5:10-12*
- The Power of God to intervene, to rescue and deliver, in His time and in His way
- The Impact of Faithfulness on the next generation
- The Empowerment such faithful suffering gives to other Christians (cf. *Phil.1:14*)

? How would you have handled such a circumstance?

? How does Christ want us to?

PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13 (esp. 13: "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!*") Be sure to memorize Phil. 4:13 and Matthew 5:10-12.